

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,249,786 to Mahoff. Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 17, that is, that each coupling half includes a bonding wire that extends around opposing transverse edges of the coupling halves so that the bonding wires are placed in contact with metallic portions of the fluid carrying conduits, each bonding wire extending perpendicular with respect to said transverse edges thus bridging a web of its corresponding coupling half thereby creating an electrical path joining the fluid carrying conduits. Among other deficiencies, Mahoff clearly fails to teach or disclose any type of coupling device wherein a bonding wire extends around the transverse edges of the coupling halves. The only type of bonding wire that is shown in Mahoff is a short section of wire (see Figure 12, bonding spring 67) that extends transversely across the web of the coupling adjacent the latch pawls (56, 58 and 60). Thus, the Mahoff reference cannot anticipate amended Claim 16, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 10-13, 17-19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,999,825 to Cannon in view of Mahoff. The independent claims rejected in this group are claims 10, 18, 19 and 21. As for independent Claim 10, it has been amended to further recite that each of the coupling halves further include a web section interconnecting the opposing transverse edges, and that the bonding wire also traverses across the web section. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the Cannon reference disclosed a bonding wire that traversed not only along the transverse edges of the coupling halves, but also across the webs of the coupling halves. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of the

Cannon reference, and it is noted that in Cannon, the bonding wire only traverses along the transverse edges. There is no part of the bonding wires 42 in Cannon that extend across the web of the coupling halves. Although the Mahoff reference may show some irregular extension of a bonding wire across the web of the coupling halves, there is no teaching or suggestion to so
5 modify either the primary or secondary reference so that there is a bonding element that traverses both across the web of its corresponding coupling half and around its transverse edges. Cannon and Mahoff would have to be so reconstructed that providing the presently claimed bonding wire arrangement is not obvious.

Independent Claim 18 has been amended to further recite that the means for creating is a
10 unitary and continuous member. Although the Examiner rejected Claim 18 based upon the combination of Mahoff and Cannon, the Examiner did not clarify the Examiner's basis for the rejection as applied to Claim 18 that includes various means plus function limitations. In any event, as mentioned above with respect to Claim 10, the combination of Mahoff and Cannon fails to disclose the structure disclosed in the present application for creating an electrically
15 conductive path across the coupling assembly. Furthermore, the prior art of record does not disclose a unitary and continuous member for creating the electrically conductive path in the manner as claimed.

Independent Claim 19 has been amended similar to Claim 18, that is, Claim 19 has been amended to recite that the means for creating an electrically conductive path is a unitary and
20 continuous member. Therefore, Claim 19 should also be allowed.

Claim 21 has been further amended to recite that the means for creating extends circumferentially around the coupling half, and transversely across the coupling half, the means for creating being a unitary and continuous member. For the same reasons as set forth above with respect to Claim 18, Claim 21 should also be allowed.

5 Claims 22-37 and 39-41 have been added to further claim the present invention. Claims 22, 31, 37, 39, 40 and 41 are new independent claims. It is believed that each of the new claims clearly distinguish over the prior art of record.

As for independent Claim 22, the combination of Cannon and Mahoff fail to disclose the invention claimed in Claim 22 to include the bonding wire which extends around both transverse
10 edges of the coupling half and which spans the web. Claims 23-30 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 22 and should also be allowed.

As for independent Claim 31, Cannon and Mahoff fail to teach a pair of bonding wires, one bonding wire mounted to each coupling half, each bonding wire traversing along each transverse edge and across the web so to make contact at multiple points along confronting ends
15 of the conduit members, and each bonding wire spanning the corresponding coupling halve thereby forming a continuous conductive path across the coupling. Claims 32-36 depend from Claim 31 and should also be allowed.

As for independent Claim 37, Mahoff and Cannon fail to disclose means for creating an electrically conductive path across the coupling assembly wherein the means for creating extends
20 around both transverse edges of the at least one coupling half and the means for creating spans across the web, and further wherein the means for creating is a unitary and continuous member.

As for independent Claim 39, this claim also distinguishes over Cannon and Mahoff because Claim 39 requires at least one bonding wire mounted externally to one of said coupling halves, said bonding wire extending around both said transverse edges of said coupling half and said bonding wire spanning said web.

5 As for independent Claim 40, this claim also distinguishes over Cannon and Mahoff because these references fail to disclose either alone or in combination means for creating an electrically conductive path across the coupling assembly, said means for creating being externally mounted to at least one of said coupling halves, said means for creating extending circumferentially around said at least one coupling half and extending transversely across said at
10 least one coupling half, said means for creating being a unitary and continuous member.

As for independent Claim 41, it also distinguishes over Cannon and Mahoff because these references either alone or in combination do not teach or disclose a spring member attached to each engagement member for providing a biasing force to resist rotation of said engagement members about their respective means for securing, each said spring member including a base
15 section mounted to the respective coupling half, and an integral spring finger protruding away from the base section and secured to the corresponding engagement member.

Claim 14 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form, and therefore should be allowed.

20 Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowability of Claims 1-9 and 20.

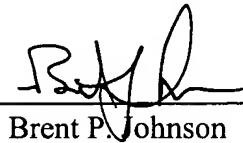
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Applicant has made a sincere effort to place this application in a condition for allowance;
therefore, such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8/18/04